1. A method of detecting and/or quantifying an IgE antibody specific to a ligand in the form of antigen, antibody or hapten in a liquid sample comprising the steps of

(a) contacting (i) the sample with (ii) a free ligand in the form of an antigen, an antibody or a hapten to form a mixture I comprising IgE-containing complexes,

(b) mixing mixture I with a carrier to which is bound (iii) IgE receptor, said IgE receptor being CD23 (FcεRII) and/or FcεRI, to form a mixture II comprising carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes,

(c) separating the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes from mixture II, and

(d) determining the amount of the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes formed.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ligand is labelled.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ligand used in step a) is bound to (iv) a label compound.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein (iv) a label compound is added in step a) in addition to (i) the sample and (ii) the ligand.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein a label compound is added to the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes formed in step (b).

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein (iv) a label compound is added to the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes resulting from the separation step (c) to form a mixture II'.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the labelled and carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes are separated from mixture II' and washed prior to step (d).

8. A method according to any of claims 3-7, wherein (iv) label compound is a chemiluminescent compound covalently bound to avidin, streptavidin or a functional derivative thereof.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the chemiluminescent compound is an acridinium compound.

10. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the ligand is bound to biotin or a functional derivative thereof.

11. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the IgE-containing sample is contacted with the ligand and allowed to incubate to form a mixture I (step (a)) before contacting mixture I with the carrier/IgE receptor (step (b)).

12. A method according to any of claims 1-10, wherein step (a) and (b) are carried out simultaneously in one operation.

13. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the carrier is a particulate material.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the carrier is a paramagnetic particulate material.

15. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the IgE to be detected is quantified using both CD23 alone to obtain a first measurement and using FcεRI alone to obtain a second measurement.

16. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the number of ligand molecules is between 100 % and 200 % of the number of IgE molecules to be detected.

17. A method according to claim 1 comprising using a detection system in the form of a label compound coupled to an antibody to the IgE to be detected.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the label compound is coupled to the antibody via biotin.

19. A method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the detection system is added to the carrier-bound complexes formed in step c).

20. A method of detecting and/or quantifying a specific IgE antibody in a liquid sample comprising the steps of

(a) contacting (i) the sample with (ii) a free ligand in the form of an antigen, an antibody or a hapten to form a mixture I comprising IgE-containing complexes, wherein the ligand is bound to biotin or a functional derivative thereof,

(b) mixing mixture I with a carrier to which is bound (iii) IgE receptor, said IgE receptor being CD23 (FcεRII)

and/or FcεRI, to form a mixture II comprising carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes,

(b') separating the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes from mixture II and washing the said complexes,

(b'') adding to the washed carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes a solution of (iv) a chemiluminescent compound covalently bound to avidin, streptavidin or a functional derivative thereof to form a mixture II',

(c) separating the carrier-bound IgE-containing complexes from mixture II' and washing the said complexes,

(d) initiating a chemiluminescent reaction in the resulting IgE-containing complexes and detecting/measuring the resulting chemiluminescence, if any.

21. Use of the method of any of claims 1-17 to monitor and evaluate the immunological status of a subject.

22. Use of the method of any of claims 1-17 to monitor and evaluate the immunological status of a subject receiving Specific Allergy Vaccination (SAV) treatment.